

PREFACE

In April 1987 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the Applied Technology Council (ATC) a 1-year contract to develop a handbook on rapid visual screening of seismically hazardous buildings. The intent of the handbook is to provide a standard rapid visual screening procedure to identify those buildings that might pose potentially serious risk of loss of life and injury, or of severe curtailment of community services, in case of a damaging earthquake.

As the initial step in the development of this handbook, ATC evaluated existing procedures and identified a recommended rapid screening procedure. Included in this report are the results of this initial effort: (1) a review and evaluation of existing procedures; (2) a listing of attributes considered ideal for a rapid visual screening procedure; and (3) a technical discussion of the recommended rapid visual screening procedure. Also included as appendices are sample data entry forms for existing procedures and other supporting information.

Dames & Moore, San Francisco, California, a consulting firm with experience in the seismic evaluation of existing buildings, served as the project subcontractor. Charles Scawthorn, formerly with Dames & Moore and currently with EQE, Inc. San Francisco, served as Principal Author. He was assisted by Thalia Anagnos of San Jose State University. Members of the Project Engineering Panel who

provided overall review and guidance for the project were: Christopher Arnold, Maurice R. Harlan, Fred Herman, William T. Holmes, H. S. Lew, Bruce C. Olsen, Chris D. Poland (Co-Principal Investigator), Lawrence D. Reaveley, Christopher Rojahn (Principal Investigator), Claire B. Rubin, Howard Simpson, Ted Winstead, and Domenic A. Zigant. Members of the Technical Advisory Committee, who reviewed the handbook from the user perspective near the close of the project, were: John L. Aho, Brent Ballif, Richard V. Bettinger, Patricia A. Bolton, Don Campi, Laurie Friedman, Terry Hughes, Donald K. Jephcott, Bill R. Manning, Guy J. P. Nordenson, Richard A. Parmelee, Earl Schwartz, William Sommers, Delbert Ward and Dot Y. Yee. Joann T. Dennett served as Technical Communication Consultant. The affiliations of these individuals are provided in Appendix D.

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